



**GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT LEGAL SERVICE
DEPARTMENTS**

GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT LEGAL SERVICE DEPARTMENTS	1
Attorney General’s Office	4
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills	6
Charity Commission for England and Wales	8
Department for Communities and Local Government	10
Competition Commission.....	11
Department for Culture, Media And Sport	12
Department for Education	13
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	14
Department for Transport	16
Department for Work & Pensions / Health	18
Department of Energy and Climate Change	20
Food Standards Agency.....	23
Health and Safety Executive	24
HM Revenue & Customs	26
HM Treasury.....	28
Home Office	29
Law Commission	31
Ministry of Defence	32
Ministry of Justice	33
Office of Fair Trading	36
Office of Rail Regulation	37
The Official Solicitor and the Public Trustee.....	38
Serious Fraud Office.....	39
The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets.....	40
Treasury Solicitor's Department	41

Water Services Regulation Authority.....	43
Welsh Government.....	44

Attorney General's Office

The Attorney General and the Solicitor General (with the Advocate General for Scotland) are known as the Law Officers. They are Ministers of the Crown and sit in one or other House of Parliament. The functions of the Law Officers fall into the following main categories.

The Law Officers are the chief legal advisers to government. In that capacity they are consulted on the most sensitive or difficult legal issues facing the government, including issues of international and EU law. They deal with questions of law arising on government Bills and with issues of legal policy. They also have oversight of major international and domestic litigation involving the Government. The Attorney General has Ministerial responsibility for the Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) and oversight of the wider Government Legal Service.

The Attorney General has statutory responsibility for superintending the main prosecuting authorities in England and Wales – the Crown Prosecution Service (headed by the Director of Public Prosecutions) and the Serious Fraud Office. The Attorney also exercises non-statutory oversight of the Service Prosecuting Authority and prosecutors in other government departments. In addition the Attorney General has Ministerial responsibility for HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

The Attorney General has, with the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Justice, a shared responsibility for the development of criminal justice policy. This role in particular reflects the Attorney's responsibility for the prosecuting authorities and their key place in the criminal justice system.

The Law Officers have a number of common law and statutory responsibilities which they discharge independently of government as "guardians of the public interest". These include referring unduly lenient sentences to the Court of Appeal; applying for orders under the Supreme Court Act 1981 to declare persons vexatious litigants; intervening in certain proceedings to protect the interests of charities; and bringing proceedings for contempt of court.

The Attorney General also holds the separate office of Advocate General for Northern Ireland with a consultative relationship with the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland and a number of responsibilities in respect of Assembly Bills, devolution issues and other matters as set out in Schedule 7 to the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002.

Work of the Legal Team

The Attorney General and Solicitor General are supported in all their functions by a small department, the Attorney General's Office (AGO). AGO is headed by the Director General and comprises teams of civil and criminal lawyers (about 15 in all), as well as policy and administrative support staff. AGO lawyers provide legal advice and support to the Law Officers in connection with their legal, prosecutorial and public interest functions, including casework. In that capacity they handle some of the most difficult and sensitive legal issues affecting the government. The lawyers also work closely with policy officials to support the Law Officers in their criminal justice and other work. They maintain close liaison with lawyers elsewhere in the GLS and in the prosecuting authorities.

Recruitment

Most AGO staff are on loan for varying periods of time from other Government Departments, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. For this reason AGO does not directly recruit lawyers.

For further information, please visit the [Attorney General's Office website](#).

Department for Business, Innovation & Skills

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is building a dynamic and competitive economy by:

- Creating the conditions for business success
- Promoting innovation, enterprise and science
- Giving everyone the skills and opportunities to succeed

Growth is the Government's top priority and every part of Government is focused on it. Almost everything that BIS does – from investing in skills to making markets more dynamic and reducing regulation, and from promoting trade to boosting innovation and helping people start and grow a business – helps drive growth.

Fighting Crime. Making Law. Defending Rights.

Work of the Legal Team

BIS Legal Services has two primary functions:

Providing the department and parts of the wider BIS family with business critical legal advice on the development and delivery of a broad and varied range of policies and projects (Legal advisory teams also take Bills through Parliament, draft statutory instruments and are involved in negotiating and implementing EU obligations).

The effective enforcement of legislation for which the Secretary of State is responsible, through the investigation of breaches of the law (including fraud arising from personal and corporate insolvency as well as other areas such as employment agencies and end-of-life vehicles) and prosecution before the criminal courts, to protect creditors and consumers.

The work is intellectually demanding and involves a broad range of Government legal skills:

- drafting statutory instruments and other legal documents
- advising on the interpretation of existing legislation
- instructing Parliamentary Counsel on new primary legislation
- advising on the implementation of EC law
- taking part in international negotiations especially on EC matters
- investigating and prosecuting companies and individuals.

From the Department that brought you advice on Libya sanctions, tuition fees, parental leave and the Space Agency

Lawyers in the advisory teams in the Legal Services Group advise BIS Ministers and officials on

English, EC and international law on the Department's work. This involves a wide range of subject areas including companies; competition, monopolies and mergers; consumer protection; employment relations, discrimination and equality; export control; higher and further education; information law; insolvency; intellectual property; post, telecommunications and e-commerce; procurement and contracts; science and innovation; state Aids, national and regional industrial assistance.

Fraud affects us all. It cost £38 billion in the UK in 2011, comprising £4 billion to individuals and £780 million to small and medium size businesses.

Lawyers on the enforcement side are responsible for advising on the exercise of the Secretary of State's powers of investigation under the Companies Acts, and for the investigation and prosecution of offences on behalf of the Secretary of State under the Insolvency and Companies regimes, including bankruptcy offences and fraudulent trading.

Current focal issues:

- Handling a range of challenging casework including a significant number of cases involving the fraudulent manipulation of the company insolvency regime, in particular including a large case involving an organised crime gang which acted together with an insolvency practitioner to liquidate 17 companies and perpetrate a £10 million fraud.
- Working with the Insolvency Service to implement a comprehensive joint civil and criminal enforcement strategy for the insolvency regimes which maximises the impact of the enforcement and protects the public from future misconduct
- Participation in the development of fraud investigative initiatives including proactive intelligence sharing with the newly created National Fraud Intelligence Bureau.
- Preparing a number of Bills for the next session of Parliament
- Rising to the deregulatory Red Tape Challenge

Vacancies

Qualified lawyer vacancies are advertised through the central GLS scheme. All vacancies are posted on the recruitment pages of the Civil Service Jobs portal.

Legal Trainees and Pupil Barristers are recruited through the GLS Legal Trainee Scheme.

Further Information

For further information, please visit the [BIS website](#)

Charity Commission for England and Wales

The Charity Commission is established by law as the independent regulator for charities in England and Wales. The Commission fulfils its regulatory role by furthering its statutory objectives to promote the public's trust and confidence in charitable activity by:

- increasing public trust and confidence in charity
- promoting awareness and understanding of the operation of the public benefit requirement
- promoting compliance by trustees with their legal obligations
- promoting the effective use of charitable resources
- enhancing the accountability of charities to donors, beneficiaries and the public.
- The Commission carries out its work by:
 - maintaining a public register of charities
 - making schemes and orders for charities
 - providing general and specific advice to encourage the better administration of charities to enable trustees to carry out their duties and responsibilities
 - identifying and investigating mismanagement and misconduct in charities and taking remedial action
- providing information about charities.

Work of the Legal Team

All charities work within a complex legal, accounting and governance framework. The source of the framework is a combination of statute and common law. Understanding the complete legal framework requires not only charity law knowledge but a wide range of legal skills from trust and company law to human rights, from contract to disclosure.

Unusually for a regulator, the Commission has quasi-judicial functions, and may, regarding a number of its powers, exercise the same jurisdiction and powers as are exercisable by the High Court. In addition the Commission has administrative and inquiry powers which it exercises in accordance with its principles of regulation. The Division's input is integral to ensure that all these powers are exercised inter vires and proportionately.

The Division's fourteen legal advisers provide specialist legal services to the Commission's four sites in London, Liverpool, Taunton and Newport.

All legal advisers undertake legally complex operational, policy and litigation casework. The Division also provides a legal advisory service to the Board on issues including Freedom of Information, data protection and procurement; it also plays an active part in the administrative and strategic development of the organisation. Legal advisers hold senior roles within the organisational

structure; their responsibilities include the provision of internal training, and participation in project boards and recruitment boards.

The Division aims to maintain and develop legal expertise in charity law and practice; act as legal resource for the Commission; and contribute to the development of relevant law and policy.

Qualified lawyer vacancies

Vacancies for posts in the Commission are advertised in the legal press and are provided to the GLS for circulation.

Further information

For further information visit the [Charity Commission website](#).

Department for Communities and Local Government

The Department is at the heart of the Coalition Government's Big Society and Localism agendas, aimed at giving new powers to councils, communities and individuals. The Department sets policy on supporting local government; communities and neighbourhoods; regeneration and economic growth; social and private sector housing; planning, building regulation; fire control and resilience.

Work of the Legal Team

The Department for Communities and Local Government Legal Directorate forms part of TSol (the Treasury Solicitor's Department).

The Legal Directorate is central to the Department's operations and helps Ministers and policy colleagues apply the law and manage legal risk; and to make new law so as best to achieve the Department's objectives. DCLG Lawyers advise on legal issues arising from the Department's policies, and are heavily involved in developing and implementing those policies through Acts of Parliament, secondary legislation and guidance. They also defend the Department's position in contentious matters, and advise on operational issues, communications with Parliament and the wider public, and in policy discussions with other Departments.

The work is fascinating and challenging and unlike anything which can be found in private practice. Whatever the issue, be it be it making buildings more energy efficient, improving the quality of housing, building communities that are resilient to violent extremism, or helping the planning system to support sustainable development, DCLG lawyers' role is crucial. The work covers many aspects of public law including human rights, devolution, freedom of information, European Union law and international environmental law.

The Directorate's lawyers are organised into four divisions:

- Planning, Fire Control and Resilience
- Decentralisation and Local Government
- Regeneration, Commercial and Employment
- Housing, Building and Land

Recent examples of CLG's work include:

- The Localism Bill, which includes provisions on decentralisation; community empowerment; reform of the planning system; reform of social housing tenure, allocation, finance and regulation; and regeneration in London;
- The regeneration aspects of the 2012 London Olympic Games; and
- Development of the new National Planning Policy Framework, to consolidate, simplify and make the planning system more responsive to local needs.

Vacancies

Qualified lawyer vacancies are advertised through the central GLS scheme. All vacancies are posted on the recruitment pages of the [Civil Service Jobs Portal](#).

Competition Commission

The Competition Commission (CC) is an independent public body established by the Competition Act 1998. It replaced the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on 1 April 1999. The CC conducts in-depth inquiries into mergers, markets and the regulation of the major regulated industries.

Every inquiry is undertaken in response to a reference made to it by another authority: usually by the [Office of Fair Trading](#) (OFT) but in certain circumstances the Secretary of State, or by the regulators under sector-specific legislative provisions relating to regulated industries. The Commission has no power to conduct inquiries on its own initiative. Its work is vital in making sure that competition remains the key driver of the long-term competitiveness of UK industry, encouraging innovation and entrepreneurialism, enabling companies to compete in world markets. This applies across the whole of UK industry whether the market is cars, supermarkets, banking services or even carpet underlay! The Enterprise Act regime has transferred responsibilities for the last word on "merger" and "market investigation" cases to the CC and away from the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (previously the CC's power in relation to remedies was only to make recommendations to the Secretary of State but now it is determinative) reinforcing the independence of the Competition Commission, giving it greater responsibilities and enhancing its role.

Work of the Legal Team

Members of the Legal Group work closely with inquiry directors, inquiry secretaries, economists, accountants, business advisers and other support staff to assist the Members of the Commission in reaching their conclusions. The lawyers are expected to have knowledge and experience of administrative law and competition law, advising on procedural issues and also on the substance of the economic and legal analysis. The Legal Group also advises on issues of wider policy significance within the CC such as legislative developments which have an impact on the work of the CC.

Qualified Lawyer Vacancies

Recruitment of qualified lawyers is carried out according to demand via direct advertisement of posts in the press.

For further information visit: <http://www.competition-commission.org.uk>

Department for Culture, Media And Sport

DCMS Legal Advisers is a Division of TSol (The Treasury Solicitor's Department) headed by Stephen Amos and co-located with our client Department at 100 Parliament Street.

The Department

DCMS aims to improve the quality of life for all through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.

DCMS is the responsible Government Department for a wide range of policy areas including:

- Architecture
- The Arts
- Broadcasting
- The Creative Industries
(including Advertising, the Visual Arts, Design, Fashion, Film, Music and Publishing)
- Cultural Property
- Entertainment Licensing
- Gambling and Horseracing
- The Government Art Collection
- The Historic Environment
- Internet and International ICT Policy
- Libraries
- Museums and Galleries
- The National Lottery
- 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Press Freedom and Regulation
- The Royal Parks
- Sport
- Telecommunications and Broadband
- Tourism

Description of Services

DCMS Legal Advisers comprises two teams of lawyers and support staff providing comprehensive in-house legal advice on policy relating to the full range of activities undertaken by DCMS – these teams are divided by policy area, with one team responsible for Broadcasting and Regulated Industries (including Broadband, Broadcasting, Entertainment Licensing, Gambling, Media and Tourism) and another for Olympics, Sport and Culture (including Art, Cultural Property, Libraries, Olympics, Royal Parks, Sport).

We also work with colleagues in central TSol teams to provide specialist support on domestic and European litigation management and employment law.

For further information, [please visit the DCMS website](#).

Department for Education

The Department for Education (DfE) is responsible for education (to age 19) and for children and families.

Work of the Legal Team

DfE lawyers are employed by TSol but work alongside policy colleagues in DfE's London offices. Lawyers provide a full range of legal services to assist and support the Department (and its 4 Executive Agencies) to advance its policy priorities. They work in close partnership with policy, operational and corporate colleagues, applying their legal professional skills to getting their Department's business done. They do extensive legislative work on both Bills and SIs, as well as a very wide range of advisory work.

In particular lawyers:

- work closely with policy colleagues as policies are developed which may lead to legal changes or which need to be implemented by legal processes;
- provide legal support to colleagues and Ministers in relation to Bills, instructing parliamentary counsel and supporting the Parliamentary process;
- draft secondary legislation to implement Acts, such as regulations and orders;
- advise on litigation in which the Department is involved, working collaboratively with TSol litigators based at One Kemble Street; and
- advise Departmental colleagues on a wide range of legal issues they encounter in their day-to-day work, including in relation to corporate issues such as commercial contracts, information law and procurement.
- Employment law advice is provided by TSol's central advisory team (CATE), based at One Kemble Street.

For further information, [please visit the DfE website](#).

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Defra, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, brings together all aspects of policy on the environment, rural affairs, farming and food production. Defra's mission is to enable us to live within our means, ensuring that the resources and environment that we need and enjoy are available for us all, now and in the future. Defra has roles in both EU and global policy-making, so its work has a strong European and international dimension.

Work of Defra Legal Advisers

Defra Legal Advisers (DLA) is one of the largest legal teams in Government. Our lawyers are employed by the Treasury Solicitor's Department, but are mainly co-located with our Defra clients in Westminster, Central London.

We undertake legal work across a diverse spectrum of policy areas, much of it at the forefront of high-profile Government initiatives; waste policy, climate change adaptation, animal health and welfare, including animal disease emergencies, protection of rural communities, sea fisheries and food labelling. We also have a large part to play in the green economy, sustainable development, and environmental protection and pollution control.

The work is varied, fast-paced and often on controversial issues. In addition to providing legal support to Defra, we also advise a number of delivery agencies and work closely with others such as the Food Standards Agency and lawyers in the devolved governments. DLA provides a great opportunity to gain experience of a wide range of Government legal skills and to work on issues affecting operational delivery as well as policy across Whitehall.

Legal Advice

Defra lawyers work closely with Ministers and policy officials in the Department and across Whitehall. A team-based approach is used and lawyers collaborate with administrators and other specialists including vets and scientists on the development, delivery and implementation of policy. The legal issues arising from policy options include:-

- the application of EU legislation
- administrative law
- human rights
- devolution

Where necessary, we accompany policy colleagues to Brussels and elsewhere to take part in negotiating European and international agreements. We also have a specialist unit dealing with commercial issues.

Litigation

Our litigators have a varied practice with a high public law content including high-profile judicial reviews, private law matters such as personal injury and sometimes proceedings in the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Drafting

We instruct Parliamentary Counsel on the drafting of Bills and with policy colleagues attend Parliamentary debates. We ourselves draft a wide range of secondary legislation to implement Government policy and EU obligations.

Vacancies

Qualified lawyer vacancies are advertised through the central GLS scheme. All vacancies are posted on the recruitment pages of the [Civil Service website](#).

Further Information

For further information, [please visit the DEFRA website](#).

Department for Transport

The challenges faced by the Department for Transport are among the most complex and challenging faced by Government today. We strive to provide a transport system that is an engine for economic growth, but one that is also greener and safer and improves quality of life in our communities.

Overcrowding on railways and congestion on the roads are familiar to all of us. Air travel has trebled in the past 20 years. With an ageing population, the need for accessible transport increases. Access by public transport to jobs in rural areas is the key to tackling social exclusion. Security is vital in our domestic and international transport services. Our lawyers play a vital role in tackling these issues.

Work of the Legal Team

DfT's Legal Service is part of the department's General Counsel's Office. We advise on a wide range of railway, road, aviation and marine issues, covering domestic, EU and International law.

As part of moves towards shared legal services under the Civil Service Reform Plan, it is anticipated that DfT's lawyers will be joining the Treasury Solicitors Department by March 2014.

Law-making

Our lawyers help to create new legislation. We are closely involved in briefing Ministers and attend Parliament during all stages of a bill's passage – for example DfT's bill to modernise the system of economic regulation for large UK airports. If a bill is taken forward to build a new high speed railway – our lawyers will be part of the front line team to get a bill in to and through the Houses of Parliament.

We also draft secondary legislation ourselves, including implementing European directives. We have for example drafted domestic regulations implementing an EU directive relating to the railway system that allows for the safe and uninterrupted movement of trains in the EU; and regulations which will help ensure that the UK meets its 2020 EU renewable energy targets in the transport sector.

Advisory work

We are closely involved in developing and implementing policy, and advise on particular issues or cases as they arise.

International work is an important part of what we do. European law, for example, influences how we operate. Often, our lawyers travel to Brussels for negotiations, which might relate to a new EU directive, a state aid case or a complaint to the Commission that the UK is not complying with EU law. Knowledge and application of the principles of the European Convention on Human Rights are also a feature of our advisory role.

Our lawyers also have opportunities to travel as a result of the UK's participation in other international bodies, such as the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Complex public law issues can arise, requiring an understanding of how government operates, how it exercises its powers, and how it should meet its responsibilities. We apply our skills to matters as varied as streetworks and traffic management, maritime security and the carriage of dangerous goods. Advice may need to be produced under pressure and under intense public scrutiny. The terrorist attacks in the US in September 2001 generated a flurry of activity in aviation security and it was vital that we were able to advise quickly on proposed security measures. More recently our lawyers have been working to develop strategies to protect UK ships from piracy at sea.

The devolution implications of the department's policies are very much part of the legal environment in which we work. Our advice is sought on the scope of new legislation with respect to the devolved administrations and on the competence of Scottish Parliament and National Assembly for Wales. Can Westminster legislate for children to wear seatbelts in school buses in Wales and Scotland for example?

We frequently offer guidance on compliance with the Data Protection Act. Since the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act, we also advise on the need for open Government. Lawyers advising on employment issues have an unusual opportunity to work at the cutting edge of law and policy, helping to implement the Government's commitment to best practice as an employer.

Lawyers with an interest in commercial matters, for example the way in which transport projects are financed, will find much to stimulate them. For example, multi-billion pound procurement projects for the railways mean that our lawyers can develop expertise in complex financing, corporate law and regulatory issues.

Disputes

The department's work can give rise to disputes. These may take the form of judicial review, infraction proceedings before the Court of Justice of the EU, proceedings in the European Court of Human Rights, proceedings in the UK courts and tribunals or arbitration.

TSol (Treasury Solicitors) handles most of our formal legal proceedings, but our own lawyers are actively involved in the department's disputes. This is particularly so as we are committed to mediation and other forms of negotiated settlement.

Vacancies

Qualified lawyer vacancies for posts in the department are advertised through the central GLS scheme. All vacancies are posted on the [Civil Service Jobs Portal](#).

Department for Work & Pensions / Health

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for a radical and far-reaching programme of reform: getting people into work, supporting the disabled, and providing a framework for financial security in retirement.

The Department of Health's role is to improve the health and well-being of the population of England. The Department provides strategic leadership to the NHS and social care organisations in England. It is responsible for regulation of the medical profession across the UK.

Work of the Legal Team

The Legal Services team consists of around 150 lawyers who are part of a joint team which advises both DWP and Department of Health and which will join TSol by March 2014.

Lawyers are a key part of each department, operating at the heart of the government's social policy and health agenda, helping to shape and implement significant reform as well as supporting the Departments' day to day operations.

Our lawyers work very closely with Ministers and policy officials.

On the DWP side, we grapple with the ever-changing demands of a modern welfare system and the labour market, as well as the challenges of child support and the regulation of the occupational pensions industry.

On the health side we are working to embed a very significant reform of NHS structures and to modernise our provision of social care, while handling the legal and ethical complexities of matters such as human fertilisation and mental health.

The work is demanding, stimulating and rewarding.

Projects are intellectually challenging, fast moving and politically very contentious. Reform proposals frequently raise issues in areas such as human rights, equality, public law, data protection and EU law. We face frequent high profile court challenges raising both domestic and EU law issues. We are regularly involved in high profile litigation in the Supreme Court and in the European Court of Justice.

Current DWP projects include:

- Get Britain working initiatives
- Reform of EU social security
- Reforming the welfare system, in particular by introducing Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment
- A Bill to reform State Pensions
- Modernising social security appeals

- Defending high profile Judicial Review challenges

Current DH projects include:

- A Care Bill
- Embedding of the new NHS structures
- NHS pension reform and professional regulation
- Review of cosmetic surgery

Public health initiatives

We are responsible for important and far-reaching legislation - we usually have a number of Bills in each Parliamentary session.

The legal team assists in the delivery of primary and secondary legislation, helping to develop the policy and legal issues to the point when they are ready for introduction in a Bill, taking the Bill through its Parliamentary stages and implementing it by drafting the necessary secondary legislation.

We are also involved in negotiating and giving effect to EU legislation.

In addition we work closely with colleagues in TSol to deal with any litigation challenges which may arise.

Commercial law

The Procurement and Commercial Law Division delivers commercial law services to both DWP and DH. It is an expanding team in a growth area of business covering a broad range of challenging, high profile and interesting work. The Division advises on a comprehensive range of commercial matters and much of our work is on the boundaries of commercial and public law, often at the forefront of major government initiatives and in delivering reform. We advise on a full range of commercial matters, including contract law, public procurement law, intellectual property, state aid, competition law and information law. Commercial lawyers work closely with colleagues in advisory and legislative teams and across other Government Departments. Additionally, where appropriate, we manage external legal providers to assure quality and value for money.

Further Information

Profiles with lawyers in DWP and DH can be found on pages 45-47 of this document.

Qualified lawyer vacancies are advertised through the central GLS scheme. All vacancies are posted on the recruitment pages of the Civil Service website.

For further information, please visit the [DWP](#) and [DH](#) websites.

Department of Energy and Climate Change

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is responsible for all aspects of UK energy and climate change policy. Our purpose is to head off two risks – a shortfall in secure, affordable energy supplies and catastrophic climate change. Our mission is therefore to power the country and protect the planet. We are an economic department and are key to the delivery of the Government's growth agenda.

DECC is an exciting and dynamic place to work. Our objectives are to:

- save energy with the Green Deal and support vulnerable consumers;
- deliver secure energy on the way to a low carbon energy future ;
- drive ambitious action on climate change at home and abroad;
- manage our energy legacy responsibly and cost effectively.

Our vision for 2050 is for the UK to have made a safe and secure transition to a low-carbon economy. To achieve this our priorities are:

- low carbon power generation, particularly through renewables, nuclear and fossil fuels with CCS;
- low-carbon industry;
- low-carbon buildings;
- low-carbon transport;

while making the best use of our oil and gas reserves, and safely and cost-effectively addressing our nuclear and coal mining legacies.

We aim to do this in a way that:

- minimises costs, distributing them fairly, particularly for those in fuel poverty;
- maximises benefits – new investment, new industries, new jobs, and protection from fossil fuel price spikes; and
- supports a global transition to low-carbon development.

During this transition, we will make the best use of our oil and gas reserves, and address our coal mining and nuclear legacies, safely and cost-effectively decommissioning and cleaning up existing civil nuclear facilities.

WORK OF DECC LEGAL

DECC Legal has a complement of around 55 lawyers and is based in the Department's HQ offices in Whitehall Place, in the heart of Whitehall. We are organised into seven flexible teams, and work closely with ministers and policy officials in the Department and across Whitehall. As part of moves towards shared legal services under the Civil Service Reform Plan, it is anticipated that DECC's lawyers will be joining the Treasury Solicitors Department by March 2014.

The policy and political environment is fast-moving, and DECC has a major legislative and regulatory portfolio. DECC's lawyers need to ensure that the Department receives high quality advisory legal services to support the full range of its activities. It needs robust support in taking decisions, often controversial, and in defending challenges to them. It needs increasing support in its commercial and contract work. Major matters we expect to be advising on in the next year include:

- emissions trading
- energy efficiency
- smart grids and smart meters
- the renewable heat incentive
- fuel poverty
- carbon budgets and carbon reduction
- the Green Deal including Green Deal finance
- gas/electricity transmission reform, both nationally and internationally
- electricity market reform (including the issuing of contracts for difference to low carbon generators, and the establishment of a Capacity Market to ensure security of electricity supply)
- content of the strategy & policy statement identifying the outcomes to be achieved in implementing energy policy
- oil, gas and coal
- unconventional oil and gas
- carbon capture and storage
- facilitating new renewable and nuclear development
- nuclear security and liabilities
- radioactive waste
- non-proliferation
- emergency planning
- international climate change negotiations
- international energy treaties

- international climate finance
- managing the UK's energy legacy

EU initiatives including on energy efficiency, renewable and low carbon energy, and on environmental protection and energy infrastructure

- the EU Third Energy Package
- national infrastructure consents
- ensuring the integrity of wholesale energy markets
corporate and commercial matters.
- Oil, gas and coal

Further Information

Qualified lawyer vacancies are advertised through the central GLS scheme. All vacancies are posted on the recruitment pages of the [Civil Service website](#).

For further information, please visit the [DECC website](#).

Food Standards Agency

The Food Standards Agency is a non-Ministerial Government Department led by a Board. It came into being on 1 April 2000 and its main objective, set out in section 1 of the Food Standards Act 1999, is to protect public health from risks which may arise in connection with the consumption of food and otherwise to protect the interests of consumers in relation to food. It was created to overcome the perceived conflict faced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in balancing the interests of the food industry on the one hand and consumers on the other. The handling of the BSE crisis was one of the reasons behind the setting up of the Agency.

The independence of the Agency is enhanced, in particular, by its power to publish information, including the advice it gives to Ministers. Openness is one of its core values.

The Agency is a UK-wide body operating within a field of devolved competence. What this means is that legislative powers and certain other functions in relation to food safety exercised by Health Ministers in England are exercisable by the relevant Ministers or other appropriate authorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Agency's remit covers both food ("from farm to fork") and animal feeding stuffs. Much of the subject matter is topical and often controversial.

Work of the Legal Team

Our small team of lawyers provides in-house legal services to the Food Standards Agency. We also provide drafting and advisory services in respect of those functions, in particular legislative, that reside with Health Ministers.

The work is demanding and much of it EC driven. We are routinely engaged in:

- drafting Statutory Instruments
- advising on the interpretation of existing legislation
- advising on the negotiation and implementation of EC law
- advising on the enforcement of food law
- general public law issues.

Some legal work (mainly debt recovery and employment law) is outsourced. Advice to the devolved authorities is dealt with by Government lawyers in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Vacancies

Qualified lawyer vacancies for posts in this department are advertised through the central GLS scheme. All vacancies are posted on the [Civil Service Jobs Portal](#).

Further Information

Please visit the [Food Standards Agency website](#).

Health and Safety Executive

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is a national independent watchdog which has statutory responsibility in Great Britain for securing the health and safety of workers and protecting the general public from work-related risks. HSE's responsibilities go beyond core Health and Safety at Work and include, for example, the regulation of nuclear safety and security, pesticides and animal pathogens. HSE works closely with other government departments, particularly the [Department for Work and Pensions](#) (its parent department), the [Department for Energy and Climate and Climate Change](#) (DECC) and DEFRA.

HSE's legal advisers are able, committed lawyers, who enjoy a very broad range of high quality work. They have the satisfaction of knowing that their advice, casework and regulations can make a direct impact on saving lives. In addition, our work places emphasis on the Cabinet Office's better regulation agenda. HSE believes that risk management should be about practical steps to protect people from real harm and suffering, not bureaucratic back covering. If you believe some of the stories in the press, you might think that health and safety law is all about stopping any activity that might possibly lead to harm. This is not HSE's vision of sensible health and safety - our approach is to seek a balance between the unachievable aim of absolute safety and the kind of poor management of risk that damages lives and the UK economy.

Work of the Legal Team

HSE Legal Adviser's Office consists of three teams: one dealing with enforcement and two dealing with advisory and drafting work. The enforcement team is based at HSE's headquarters in Bootle, Merseyside, and the two advisory teams are located in London.

The Enforcement Team

The Enforcement Team is responsible for a wide variety of casework including direct responsibility for the more complex and/or high profile prosecutions under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The team also monitors and liaises with solicitor agents handling lower profile cases on behalf of the organisation. The team's portfolio also includes appeals against Enforcement Notices before the Employment Tribunal and a variety of civil litigation. The team provides enforcement advice; legal training and updates to operational staff, policy advisory work and lead on liaison with other prosecution agencies.

The Advisory and Drafting Teams

Advisory support to the Health & Safety Executive is provided by two teams located in TSol's Central Advisory Division. These teams provide general advice on all aspects of health and safety law. Advisory portfolios include the nuclear, oil, gas, and fire industries, construction, occupational stress, environment issues such as tobacco smoke, and biocides, amongst others.

Lawyers will have involvement with high profile issues such as the Buncefield explosion and the government's policy on new nuclear power stations. Advisory and drafting lawyers are also responsible for the drafting of statutory instruments, many of which originate from European measures, and are involved at all stages from negotiation of the text of Directives to consultation on proposed Regulations. They also provide advice on a number of corporate issues including contract,

tort, information law (Freedom of Information and Data Protection Act), employment, copyright and intellectual property rights and procurement law issues.

Vacancies

Qualified lawyer vacancies for posts in this department are advertised through the central GLS scheme. Opportunities for qualified lawyers are advertised on the [Civil Service Jobs Portal](#).

Further Information

For further information please visit the [HSE website](#).

HM Revenue & Customs

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) was formed in April 2005, following the merger of Inland Revenue and HM Customs & Excise.

HMRC's role is to administer the UK's tax and customs systems to ensure society's financial wellbeing. We do this by collecting and administering the four direct taxes, such as income tax, and the indirect taxes, such as VAT. The Department also pays and administers Tax Credits, Child Benefit and Child Trust Funds. In addition we have a range of other compliance activities such as enforcing National Minimum Wage regulations and recovering student loans.

In 2009, the UK Border Agency took over statutory responsibility for protecting the UK's borders against illicit and harmful trade, including illegal import or export of drugs, counterfeit or illicit alcohol and tobacco, and other illicit goods. However, HMRC still has a key role and is responsible for policies and activities associated with collecting duties at the frontier and processing information about international trade.

HMRC Solicitor's Office

The work of HMRC Solicitor's Office is an integral part of HMRC and has, in common with other Government departments, a broad range of often unique work covering, in addition to tax, many aspects of public law including Human Rights, Freedom of Information, European law and Judicial Review. We work closely with lawyers in other Government departments.

HMRC offers the opportunity to undertake both advisory work and litigation.

Unlike most Government departments, we conduct all of our litigation in teams in-house [except ECJ cases, which TSol handle, and Strasbourg cases (FCO)]. Owing to the size of our Department, this includes a significant volume of cases at the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court, the Court of Justice of the European Union and occasionally the European Court of Human Rights. Much of our litigation is both high-profile and high-value, including a number of cases where more than £1bn of tax is at stake. We use the private sector to assist us with some of our litigation.

Our advisory teams provide legal advice and support to all parts of the Department, covering business and personal taxes (including benefits and credits), property and indirect taxes, information, criminal, human rights and European law as well as international cooperation. We work closely with our policy clients in relation to all areas of our work and get involved early in the development of new legislation. Our advisory lawyers draft our secondary legislation and work every year with clients and Parliamentary Counsel on the passage of the Finance Bill.

We also advise and litigate in relation to commercial and employment matters, rating and valuation, criminal finances and the civil aspects of criminal matters, and enforcement of tax debts including insolvency.

Depending on our current vacancies, successful candidates may start in any of these teams.

The quality of the advisory and litigation work is such that the experience a lawyer can gain at HMRC Solicitor's Office is commensurate with the best experience available in these areas in the private sector.

The Working Environment

The Solicitor's Office employs approximately 200 lawyers (both solicitors and barristers) plus support and administrative staff.

The majority of our lawyers work in London at 100 Parliament Street in Whitehall and Bush House on the Strand.

We also have an office in Ralli Quays, Manchester, a modern building within easy reach of the city centre.

Widening Your Experience

New recruits to the office come from a variety of backgrounds. Both solicitors and barristers work at HMRC Solicitor's Office and many have previously worked in private practice. It is quite common for newly qualified lawyers and even those with some years' experience since qualification to have limited experience of taxation. However, this is by no means a disadvantage as a wide general experience in the law is often extremely useful.

Most lawyers move between teams in order to acquire a range of experience in the work of the various divisions. Staff are encouraged to move between the teams during their careers and to consider loans to legal teams in other departments in order to widen their experience. It is usual for such moves to take place every three years or so in the early stages of a lawyer's career in the Office.

Vacancies

Qualified lawyer vacancies for posts in this department are advertised through the central GLS scheme. All vacancies are posted on the [Civil Service Jobs Portal](#).

Trainee Solicitors and Pupil Barristers are recruited through the GLS Legal Trainee Scheme.

Further Information

For further information, please see the [HMRC website](#).

Examples of recent work carried out by lawyers in HMRC can also be found in an article by Anthony Inglese, General Counsel and Solicitor for HMRC, in the [Law Society Gazette](#) (August 2012).

HM Treasury

The Treasury is the United Kingdom's economics and finance ministry. It is responsible for formulating and implementing the Government's financial and economic policy. Its aim is to raise the rate of sustainable growth, and achieve rising prosperity and a better quality of life with economic and employment opportunities for all.

Work of the Legal Team

TSol (Treasury Solicitor's Department) wholly employs lawyers in this Department.

We advise HM Treasury (HMT) as well as a number of other bodies including the Office of National Statistics, the Royal Mint, the Cabinet Office (Civil Service Pensions) and National Savings.

Our lawyers advise on a wide range of advisory and drafting work across the full spectrum of policy areas for which HMT and related Departments are responsible. For example members of the team were heavily involved in the implementation of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, which brought about a wholesale reform of the regulation of banking, insurance and investment business, and entailed a vast programme of secondary legislation.

Those areas include:

- public sector finance, spending, and financial accountability (including Government accounting); financial services and markets regulation at UK, European and international levels (including banking, insurance, investment services and electronic money); financial crime and financial sanctions (including the freezing of terrorist assets pursuant to UN resolutions etc, insider dealing, market manipulation and money laundering);
- public procurement; state aids and competition;
- general European law issues involving public sector finance (including the euro);
- public sector pay and pensions; and currency issues (including coinage).

The work of the Division is high-profile, interesting and varied, and includes the provision of general legal advice (for example, on public law, Community law, Human Rights and statutory interpretation), the negotiation and implementation of European and other international measures, statutory instrument drafting and Bill work.

For further information, please visit the [HM Treasury website](#).

Home Office

The Home Office operates at the heart of modern Government. Although one of the oldest Departments its functions cover many of the key issues currently facing us all. It is changing fast and it has a number of key objectives including:

- Help people feel safe in their homes
- Cut crime, especially violent, alcohol and drug-related crime
- Lead visible, responsive and accountable policing
- Support the efficient and effective delivery of justice
- Protect the public from terrorism
- Secure our borders and control migration for the benefit of our country; and
- Safeguard identity and the privileges of citizenship

The work that we do affects people's daily lives. It is often in the media and public eye. It is regularly subjected to Parliamentary scrutiny. If you join us, you will advise senior administrators and Ministers on issues that are the focus of public attention, many of which involve sensitive legal and policy questions. The following are only some of the areas for which the Home Office is responsible:

- crime prevention
- the police
- controlled drugs
- prevention of terrorism
- extradition
- firearms control
- immigration and asylum
- citizenship and nationality

Work of the Legal Team

As Home Office lawyers, we advise Ministers and officials on all areas of work covered by the Home Office, and also advise Ministers and officials in the Northern Ireland Office. The role of the NIO is to support the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in securing a lasting peace, based on the Good Friday Agreement, in which the rights and identities of all traditions in Northern Ireland are fully respected and safeguarded and in which a safe, stable, just, open and tolerant society can thrive and prosper.

We are involved at all stages of taking Bills through Parliament. We work closely with those responsible for the formulation of policy, we instruct Parliamentary Counsel (who draft Government Bills), we brief Ministers on the legislation and we attend Parliament during all stages of a Bill's passage. In recent Parliamentary sessions we have worked on a number of Bills, strengthening our borders, countering terrorism and organised crime and helping the police and communities tackle crime.

We draft subordinate legislation, much of it related to implementing European Union legislation.

We provide advice to our clients on a whole range of legal issues and in the context of a changing legal landscape, including the Human Rights Act 1998 and Data Protection Act 1998 and Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Although we are not litigators, we provide advice to our clients on domestic litigation which is of interest to Ministers because it is high profile, politically sensitive or might require a change of policy on the part of the Home Office.

We are involved in all Home Office litigation before the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights and we attend hearings in Luxembourg and Strasbourg. Again, we are not primarily responsible for conducting the litigation but provide advice to our clients on the policy issues arising in the litigation.

As part of moves towards shared legal services under the Civil Service Reform Plan, the Home Office is currently considering proposals to join TSol's shared legal service.

Vacancies

Qualified lawyer vacancies for posts in this department are advertised through the central GLS scheme. All vacancies are posted on the [Civil Service Jobs Portal](#).

Trainee Solicitors and Pupil Barristers are occasionally recruited through the GLS Legal Trainee Scheme.

Further Information

Please visit the [Home Office website](#).

Law Commission

The Law Commission is the permanent law reform body for England and Wales. Established by Act of Parliament in 1965, it is independent of Government.

There are five Law Commissioners. The Chairman is always a High Court Judge or a Judge of the Court of Appeal, and is currently the Right Honourable Lord Justice (Sir David) Lloyd Jones. The other Commissioners each take primary responsibility for a particular area of law. Frances Patterson QC deals with Public Law. David Hertzell covers Commercial Law and Common Law. Professor Elizabeth Cooke deals with projects in the field of Property and Trust Law. Professor David Ormerod QC is responsible for Criminal Law and Evidence.

Work of the Legal Team

The Law Commission provides lawyers with a rare opportunity to play a key part in the process of law reform and to deal with major issues of law and policy in developing a range of solutions. The work is worthwhile, stimulating and varied. Each lawyer carries a considerable responsibility for analysing the law on given topics with a view to identifying problems and their implications for other branches of the law and developing a range of solutions.

In the early stages of a project, legal staff can expect to be researching the present law, devising possible solutions to the problems or devising questionnaires. Great emphasis is placed upon the process of consultation on law reform proposals, and in evaluating and analysing responses. In later stages lawyers may draft policy papers, instructions to Parliamentary Counsel, and the final Report. Throughout the process they are encouraged, and indeed expected, to put forward their own ideas to assist in the development of proposals for reform.

Lawyers appointed to the Law Commission can demonstrate personal effectiveness in all aspects of their career history, they have a track record of efficiency and reliability and the capacity to remain calm and determined under pressure. Their attitude is constructive, supportive and flexible, and they work effectively with the minimum of direct supervision. They are able to demonstrate specialist knowledge of their area of law; have strong communication skills; solve problems creatively; and develop good working relationships with colleagues, even when under pressure.

Research Assistants

Each year the Law Commission runs a campaign to recruit a number of Research Assistants to join our legal teams on fixed-term appointments for approximately 12 months commencing each September. They work closely with our Commissioners and lawyers, and take part in the meetings and discussions relevant to their own projects. The experience provides a grounding in the formulation of legal policy and the preparation of legislation and is excellent experience for a variety of careers in the legal world. Information on how to apply is available on the [Law Commission's Website](#) each January.

Qualified Lawyer Vacancies

Depending on the nature of the vacancy the Law Commission fills lawyer vacancies through a variety of ways including the central GLS Recruitment Scheme, the [Civil Service Jobs Portal](#) or the services of an outside agency. In every case, a vacancy advertisement will be published on the [Law Commission's Website](#).

Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) exists to deliver security for the people of the UK and the Overseas Territories by defending them, including against terrorism, and to act as a force for good by strengthening international peace and stability.

Work of the Legal Team

With around 84 lawyers, MoD's civilian lawyers in the Central Legal Services (CLS) Directorate give legal advice and support on legal issues connected with the full range of MoD's activities and responsibilities. In a Department employing 240,840 civilians and Service personnel engaged in a many different activities all over the UK and the world, the legal work is never dull or routine. Our UK based lawyers are organised by the following legal subject areas:

- Commercial Law Division
- General Law Division
- Command, Discipline & Constitutional Law Division
- Operational and International Humanitarian Law Division
- Strategic Corporate Law Division
- Intellectual Property Rights Division

There are few legal areas where our lawyers do not advise, whether it's domestic, European or wider international law.

Much of our work is sensitive, and we also have frequent opportunities to work with legal colleagues in the Armed Forces, other Government Departments and the UK's close allies.

All our lawyers strive consistently to provide high-quality legal support and advice, sometimes to demanding timetables. It is absorbing and satisfying work that can make a real difference.

As part of moves towards shared legal services under the Civil Service Reform Plan, it is anticipated that the MOD's lawyers will be joining the Treasury Solicitor's Department by March 2014.

Vacancies

Qualified lawyer vacancies for posts in this department are advertised through the central GLS scheme. All vacancies are posted on the [Civil Service Jobs Portal](#).

Further Information

For further information, please visit the [Ministry of Defence website](#).

Ministry of Justice

The legal Directorate of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) supports the Ministry on all aspects of its business. It consists of seven, SCS-led advisory teams and a business support team. Where appropriate we also commission the use of external legal services, especially in relation to commercial and employment matters.

The Directorate's two legal directors (Rosemary Davies and Jane Hill) have joint responsibility for the operation of the directorate.

Our Teams: Most of us are legally qualified barristers or solicitors, and we also have a number of legal trainees. All our legal teams provide a full range of legal services including; advisory work, Bill work, implementing primary legislation, drafting secondary legislation and litigation support. Many teams are also heavily involved in European negotiations. We are part of the wider Government Legal Service, which gives us access to a broad range of legal expertise from across government.

As part of moves towards shared legal services under the Civil Service Reform Plan, it is anticipated that the MOJ's lawyers will be joining the Treasury Solicitor's Department by July 2013.

Below you will find information about the work of each team.

Civil and Family Law team: The Civil and Family Law team provide legal services to the MoJ on a full range of issues relating to civil and family law. This covers subjects as diverse as reform of the law governing limitation periods, land law, wills and succession, general tort and contract, private international law and civil judicial co-operation, defamation, 'compensation culture' and the law of damages, forced marriages, domestic violence, reciprocal enforcement of maintenance, mental capacity, civil enforcement and civil procedure.

The team is also involved with European and international issues (such as which country's law should apply in a particular situation). This work can involve a considerable amount of attendance at working group meetings in Brussels or The Hague and in cases before the European Court of Justice.

Corporate Advisory team: The Corporate Advisory team advises the MoJ in relation to contract, other commercial matters (e.g. IP, state aid), property and public procurement, often in relation to large scale projects. The team's key priority is to give risk-based advice to enable MoJ to operate effectively as a commercial entity, and major purchaser of goods and services in the Justice sector.

The team is also a source of expertise on how MoJ should properly conduct itself as a government department, for example in respect of the rules on government finance and when Parliamentary authority is required for expenditure.

Courts, Tribunals, Judiciary and Coroners team: The Courts and Tribunals team provides legal services in respect of the work of courts, tribunals and other judicial decision-makers (including coroners), and the structures and systems that underpin their activities. The team works with some of MoJ's main operational agencies, in particular Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service.

We also advise on burial and cremation law. The judiciary team provides legal services about matters relating to the judiciary, including selection, appointment, terms and conditions, discipline and

pensions. The team works with MoJ, the Judicial Appointments Commission, the Judicial Office, the Office for Judicial Complaints and the Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman.

Criminal Law team: The key areas of work covered by the Criminal Law team are criminal law policy, criminal procedure, victims and witnesses and European criminal law. A significant part of the team's work consists of Bill work. The team also advises on criminal injuries compensation, miscarriages of justice, the Royal prerogative of mercy and mentally disordered offenders.

Information and Human Rights team: The Information and Human Rights team provides legal services relating to human rights, freedom of information and data protection, subjects for which MoJ has the policy lead in Whitehall and co-ordinates legal advice across MoJ and Whitehall. The team also provides training on human rights, freedom of information and data protection for lawyers across the whole of government. The team maintains human rights law and information law intranet pages for government lawyers. The human rights law team advises on domestic and European human rights issues. This includes procedural and substantive aspects of the Human Rights Act, human rights aspects of policy and litigation, the policy relating to the Charter of Fundamental Rights and other sensitive EU fundamental rights issues. The freedom of information team advises the MoJ policy unit that leads on freedom of information. The team also advises on cases before the Information Commissioner and the Information Tribunal, advises on high profile matters engaging data issues and works closely with lawyers in other departments to ensure a consistent approach to freedom of information issues. The data protection team advises on data protection both domestically and in the EU context, advises on data protection cases before the domestic courts and the European Court of Justice and on the implementation of European law on data protection.

Legal Aid and Legal Services team: The Legal Aid and Legal Services team advise MoJ in relation to legal aid and legal services issues. Work on legal aid covers all aspects of policy on legal aid, including criminal legal aid, civil, family, and international legal aid issues. The team also advises in relation to policy on criminal defence costs from Central Funds. The team works closely with the Legal Services Commission (who become the Legal Aid Agency in April 2013), who operate the legal aid scheme. Work on legal services covers all aspects of policy on regulation of the legal services and claims management sectors. This includes working with the Legal Services Board and the Office of Legal Complaints, who oversee regulation of legal services providers and handling of complaints..

Offender Management team: The Offender Management team provides legal services to MoJ and to the National Offender Management Service. . The team's key priorities include sentencing policy for adults and juveniles, the system for releasing and recalling prisoners, public protection policies, deaths and near deaths in custody, as well as matters relating to the prison population and the general management of offenders within the prison service. The team also provides litigation support in respect of challenges concerning security measures, conditions of detention, adjudications and security classification of prisoners.

Business Support team: The Business Support team (BST) supports the Legal Directorate's senior leadership team in meeting its business objectives. The BST assists with a range of services including organising business travel for lawyers, supporting recruitment exercises and event organisation, arranging accommodation and IT needs and providing general administrative support. The BST also provides individual support to SCS team leaders and their respective teams. Members of the BST lead on information management, finance and processing of FOI requests and Parliamentary Questions.

Vacancies

Qualified lawyer vacancies for posts in this department are advertised through the central GLS scheme. All vacancies are posted on the [Civil Service Jobs Portal](#).

Further Information

For more information, please visit the [MOJ website](#).

Office of Fair Trading

“Making markets work well for consumers”

The Office of Fair Trading is a non-ministerial Government Department, headed by the Board of the OFT (made up of the Chairman, the Chief Executive and executive and non-executive directors). It is the primary competition and consumer agency in the U.K.

Purpose

The OFT has a range of functions under legislation dealing with competition, consumer protection and the supervision of compliance with money laundering requirements, which it performs with the overall aim of ensuring that markets work well for consumers. Its lawyers play key roles in exercising the OFT's wide range of duties and powers. The work of the Office is intellectually challenging and provides significant job satisfaction.

Work of the legal team

The lawyers work in many different areas and groups in the Office: adding legal value in relation to competition and consumer enforcement and on the Office's market sector studies, in the Cartels and Criminal Enforcement and Mergers groups, and in the General Counsel's Office (made up of advisory lawyers, a Know-How team, the Litigation Unit and the Adjudication Unit - an independent in-house decision making unit for consumer credit and estate agents cases).

The legal work is very varied, ranging from advisory, litigation, transactional, negotiations and investigations. Advice is given on matters including competition law, super-complaints, market investigation references, reviews of undertakings and orders, market studies, consumer policy and legislation and information rights law (including freedom of information). The General Counsel's Office also provides advice on issues relating to corporate governance and gives general public law advice to the Office. The Litigation Unit conducts most of the litigation carried out by the OFT in the Competition Appeal Tribunal, the High Court, the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court and other courts.

Vacancies

Qualified lawyer vacancies for posts in this department are advertised in external publications and on the OFT website (below).

Further Information

For further information, please visit the [OFT website](#).

Office of Rail Regulation

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is the independent safety and economic regulator for Britain's railways. Our main roles in the context of economic regulation are to regulate Network Rail's stewardship of the national rail network, to licence operators of railway assets and to approve track and station access agreements. We also have concurrent jurisdiction with the Office of Fair Trading to investigate potential breaches of the Competition Act 1998 in relation to the railways. In safety regulation, our principal function is to secure the safe operation of the railway system and to protect both those working on the system and members of the public from health and safety risks arising from the railways. We work in a complex, stimulating, and often high-profile environment which is vital to the nation's infrastructure and involves stakeholders from across the rail industry and beyond.

The ORR legal services team is a small, friendly and supportive team of around ten lawyers from a mixture of Civil Service and private practice backgrounds. The team provides legal advice in respect of all ORR's functions as a combined economic and safety regulator. It includes lawyers who provide advice in respect of ORR's wide ranging economic functions. It also includes a team which advises on rail safety enforcement carries out prosecutions for health and safety offences on the railways and has involvement in inquests arising from deaths on the railways. Members of the team work closely with policy and other colleagues in ORR's various directorates and with industry stakeholders.

The Official Solicitor and the Public Trustee

www.justice.gov.uk/about/ospt

The Official Solicitor to the Senior Courts is an independent statutory office holder appointed by the Lord Chancellor under section 90 of the Senior Courts Act 1981. **The Public Trustee** is an entirely separate independent statutory office holder appointed by the Lord Chancellor under section 8 of the Public Trustee Act 1906. The Office of the Official Solicitor and the Public Trustee (OffSol) is an “arms length body” of the Ministry of Justice which exists to support those two independent statutory office holders in carrying out their functions.

The Official Solicitor, who can be either a barrister or solicitor, has always occupied an “official” position within, and as an officer of, the superior courts, and is those courts’ own solicitor.

The Lord Chancellor also appoints under the Act a Deputy Official Solicitor who has power to act in the Official Solicitor’s place when the Official Solicitor is not available because of his absence or some other reason or his office is vacant.

The Official Solicitor’s functions are:

- To act as last resort litigation friend, and in some cases solicitor, for adults who lack mental capacity and children (other than those who are the subject of child welfare proceedings), in civil, family and Court of Protection proceedings, because they lack decision making capacity in relation to the proceedings or the matters in issue;
- To act as last resort (1) administrator of estates, (2) trustee and (3) in relation to Court of Protection clients , financial deputy;
- To act as the last resort registered contact in the administration of the Government’s Child Trust Fund scheme for looked after children in England and Wales;
- To assist the Senior Courts by acting as advocate to the court, providing advice and assistance to the court, and under *Harbin v Masterman* making enquiries on behalf of the court.

He is also responsible for the International Child Abduction and Contact Unit and the Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Unit.

The Public Trustee is a corporation sole. He acts as executor or administrator of estates and as the appointed trustee of settlements. In recent years, he has accepted appointment only as a last resort. Under section 9 Administration of Estates Act 1925 where a person dies intestate his estate vests in the Public Trustee until a grant is taken out; and where a person dies leaving a will but, at the time of his death or before a grant of probate is obtained, there ceases to be a person with power to obtain probate of the will, his estate vests in the Public Trustee until a grant of representation is obtained. Under section 18 Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1994 where a person has died and a grant of representation has not yet been filed, service of notices affecting land will be sufficiently served if addressed to the personal representatives of the deceased and left or sent by post to his last known address *and* a copy of it is served on the Public Trustee. Under Part V of the First Schedule to the Law of Property Act 1925 an open space of land held prior to 1 January 1926 upon a tenancy in common was vested in the Public Trustee upon statutory trusts.

Serious Fraud Office

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) investigates and prosecutes serious or complex fraud and corruption. The department is headed by a Director who exercises powers under the superintendence of the Attorney General and is an integral part of the criminal justice system. The SFO aims to contribute to reducing economic crime and its cost to society, to delivering justice and to maintaining confidence in the UK's business and financial institutions.

The Department conducts both the investigation and the prosecution of cases involving serious or complex fraud and corruption and is dedicated to working effectively and efficiently, in co-operation with other law enforcement agencies both in the UK and abroad. The SFO deals with around 80 cases at any given time. These may involve bribery and corruption or fraud ranging from investment, banking or corporate frauds, frauds on Government or EU bodies and those involving the manipulation of financial markets. Most cases have an international dimension and many involve close working with other agencies such as the police, CPS, BIS, HM Revenue & Customs, the Financial Services Authority and the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

Work of the Legal Team

The distinctive feature of the SFO's approach to investigation is its multidisciplinary teams. Each case is allocated to a team of lawyers, financial investigators, IT and other support staff. Each team is led by a case manager (many of whom are Grade 6 or 7 lawyers) who is responsible for all aspects of the investigation and any ensuing prosecution. Counsel and other experts may be instructed and work closely with the team throughout. SFO work is difficult and challenging - it attracts considerable press and public interest - but the staff are highly motivated and are drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds.

As well as roles as case managers, lawyers in the SFO also work as investigators, interviewing witnesses and suspects (often under the SFO's statutory powers), taking statements and analysing evidence. They may need to liaise with other agencies, advise on difficult legal or practical issues, or obtain foreign or expert evidence. Some lawyers also work in Policy, providing guidance on new legislation and SFO procedure and advising the SFO's International Team which deals with mutual legal assistance matters.

Vacancies

Qualified lawyer vacancies for posts in this department are advertised through the central GLS scheme. Vacancies are posted on the Civil Service Jobs Portal.

Further Information

For further information, please visit the [SFO website](#).

The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets

www.ofgem.gov.uk

Ofgem is the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets which supports the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (“the Authority”) which is a body established by the Utilities Act 2000 to regulate the gas and electricity industries in Great Britain. The Authority has powers under the Gas Act 1986, the Electricity Act 1989, the Utilities Act 2000, the Competition Act 1998, the Enterprise Act 2002 and the Energy Acts of 2004, 2008 and 2010 as well as those arising under European Community legislation.

The principal objective of the Authority is to protect the interests of consumers in relation to electricity or gas by promoting effective competition, wherever appropriate, and regulating the monopoly companies which run the gas and electricity networks. The interests of gas and electricity consumers are their interests taken as a whole, including their interests in the reduction of greenhouse gases and in the security of the supply of gas and electricity to them.

Treasury Solicitor's Department

TSol (the Treasury Solicitor's Department) provides litigation and advisory legal services to over 180 public sector clients which include government departments and agencies, research councils, the national museums and other non-governmental bodies in England and Wales. With over 600 barristers and solicitors, TSol is one of the largest legal organisations in the country.

TSol lawyers advise ministers and their policymakers on a wide range of legal questions including domestic, public and private law, European Community law, international law and human rights. The Treasury Solicitor, Paul Jenkins QC, is the Head of the Government Legal Service.

Litigation Group

The Litigation Group provides civil litigation services to the majority of government departments and public bodies, and its work often raises questions of constitutional importance. In 2010/11, the Group handled over 34,000 cases, many of which focused on administrative law, immigration, commercial and property litigation, personal injury, planning and charity matters. The Group also plays a major role in public inquiries.

Employment Group

The Employment Group provides employment litigation and advisory services to a wide range of government departments and public bodies. Lawyers in the Employment Group act for Departments of State and public bodies in cases brought before the Employment Tribunal, the County Court, the Employment Appeal Tribunal and beyond. They also advise their clients on non-contentious matters, such as employment policies and compliance with new legislation.

Advisory Divisions

The Advisory Divisions provide legal advice to ministers and policymakers of HM Treasury, the Cabinet Office, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Education, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, as well as a number of other smaller departments and public bodies. Lawyers in the Advisory Divisions advise on all aspects of their clients' work, including preparing statutory instruments and assisting the passage of legislation through Parliament.

European Division

The European Division co-ordinates the advice given by legal advisers to various government departments on questions of European Community law. It also conducts litigation on behalf of the Government in the European Court of Justice.

High profile examples of recent legislation work

TSol advisory lawyers are also involved in a wide range of work. For example:

- Lawyers at the Treasury Legal Advisers are providing legal support for the Financial Services Bill.
- TSol lawyers based at the Department for Education are advising on the Education Bill which implements the Government's education reform programme.

- TSol lawyers located with their clients at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are providing legal support for the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics.
- The Central Advisory Division is supporting the Government Equalities Office (GEO) in implementing the public sector equality duty and reforming the Equality and Human Rights Commission.
- TSol lawyers advising the Cabinet Office and Prime Minister's Office handle a wide range of legal issues relating to national security, propriety and ethics, machinery of government and information law.

Vacancies

Qualified lawyer vacancies for posts in this department are advertised through the central GLS scheme. All vacancies are posted on the [Civil Service Jobs Portal](#).

Trainee Solicitors and Pupil Barristers are recruited through the GLS [Legal Trainee Scheme](#).

Further Information

For further information, please visit the [TSol](#) and [Bona Vacantia](#) websites.

Water Services Regulation Authority

www.ofwat.gov.uk

The Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) is the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales. Our role is to seek value for consumers. Before 1 April 2006 our functions rested with the Director General of Water Services. The framework for the changeover was outlined in the Water Act 2003. It provides a similar structure to other economic regulators.

The Board includes the Chairman, a Chief Executive, two executive and four non-executive directors. The Board is responsible for deciding how we carry out our functions and effectively meet our statutory requirements. There is a majority of non-executive members.

We make our decisions independently of the Government, but we work closely with:

the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Welsh Government;

the Consumer Council for Water (CCWater), which is an independent organisation that represents customers' interests and deals with your complaints;

the Drinking Water Inspectorate, which sets standards for the quality of drinking water;

the Environment Agency, which regulates and enforces water abstraction consents and quality standards in inland, estuarial and coastal waters.

Welsh Government

www.wales.gov.uk

The Legal Services Department (LS) provides legal advice and support to all parts of the Welsh Government. The Director is the chief legal adviser to the Welsh Government and is responsible for the management of the Department, the oversight of litigation involving the Welsh Government and arrangements under which external legal advice is obtained. The Constitution Team of lawyers and the Central Administration Team report directly to the Director.

The First Legislative Counsel heads the Office of Legislative Counsel, responsible for the drafting of Assembly Bills, and has broad oversight for maintaining and improving the quality of the Department's bilingual legislation and legislative procedures. Four Deputy Directors have corporate roles in relation to the running of the Department and are responsible for 12 teams of lawyers, consisting of:

- Local Government & Communities Team
- Social Care Team
- Commercial Legal Services
- Health & Food Safety Team
- Education (Schools) Team
- Education (Higher & Further Education) Team
- Environment Team
- Planning Team
- Welsh Language, Culture & Sport Team
- Economy Team
- Transport & Housing Team
- Rural Affairs Team

